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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, or listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a filled halobutyl elastomer which comprises

reacting at least one mineral filler with at least one organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group to form a pre-reacted filler; and

~~admixing at least one halobutyl elastomer with at least one mineral filler, wherein the filler is first reacted with at least one organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group~~ the pre-reacted filler and optionally with at least one silazane compound and then admixed the with the halobutyl elastomer.

2. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group comprises a primary alcohol group or a carboxylic acid group.

3. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group comprises a primary alcohol group and an amine group separated by methylene bridges, which may be branched.

4. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group comprises a carboxylic acid group and an amine group separated by methylene bridges, which may be branched.

5. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group is selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine, N,N,-dimethylamino-ethanol, a natural or synthetic amino acid and protein.
6. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 1, wherein the silazane compound is an organic silazane compound.
7. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 6, wherein the silazane compound is a disilazane compound.
8. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 1, wherein the mineral filler is selected from the group consisting of regular or highly dispersable silica, silicates, clay, gypsum, alumina, titanium dioxide, talc and mixtures thereof.
9. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 1, wherein the halogenated butyl elastomer is a brominated butyl elastomer.
10. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group is in the range of from 0.5 to 10 parts per hundred parts of elastomer.
11. (Currently Amended) The A process according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of silazane is in the range of from 0.5 to 10 parts per hundred parts of elastomer.
12. (Currently Amended) A method of improving the abrasion resistance of a filled, cured elastomer composition comprising ~~at least one halogenated butyl elastomer comprising admixing the halogenated butyl elastomer with at least one mineral filler that has been reacted with at least one organic compound containing at least one basic~~

~~nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group and, optionally, with a silazane compound before~~

reacting at least one mineral filler with at least one organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl containing group to make a pre-reacted filler;

admixing the pre-reacted filler with an the halobutyl elastomer to make an elastomer composition; and

curing the elastomer composition.

13. (New) A filler for elastomeric compositions comprising at least one mineral filler reacted with at least one organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl containing group.

14. (New) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the mineral filler is selected from the group consisting of regular or highly dispersable silica, silicates, clay, gypsum, alumina, titanium dioxide, talc and mixtures thereof.

15. (New) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the elastomer is a halogenated butyl elastomer or a brominated butyl elastomer.

16. (New) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the amount of the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group is in the range of from 0.5 to 10 parts per hundred parts of elastomer.

17. (New) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the organic compound comprises at least one primary alcohol group or a carboxylic acid group.

18. (New) The filler of Claim 13, wherein a branched or unbranched methylene bridge separates the at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group.

PO-8106

- 5 -

19. (New) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine, N,N,-dimethylamino-ethanol, a natural or synthetic amino acid and protein.